



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee

Date: February 27, 2018

From: Barry Konkin
Manager, Policy Planning

File:

Re: Advisory Committee on the Environment 2017 Annual Report and 2018 Work Program

Staff Recommendation

1. That the staff report titled "Advisory Committee on the Environment 2017 Annual Report and 2018 Work Program", dated February 27, 2018 from the Manager, Policy Planning, be received for information; and
2. That the Advisory Committee on the Environment 2018 Work Program, as presented in this staff report, be approved.

Barry Konkin
Manager, Policy Planning

BK:ke
Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
<i>Wayne</i> for Joe ERCEG	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CJ
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

The Advisory Committee of the Environment (ACE) was originally formed by Council in 1993. The role of ACE is to advise Council on environmental issues of concern to the community, and to promote effective means to achieve a sustainable environment. This report summarizes the activities of the Committee in 2017 and recommends a 2018 Work Program for consideration and approval by Council. ACE reviewed and endorsed the proposed work program at its meeting held on February 21, 2018.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #3 A Well-Planned Community:

3.1. Growth and development that reflects the OCP, and related policies and bylaws.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

4.1. Continued implementation of the sustainability framework.

4.2. Innovative projects and initiatives to advance sustainability.

Summary of 2017 Annual Report

The detailed 2017 Annual Report is contained in Attachment 1. Highlights are as follows:

- Received updates on the Riparian Area Strategy and upcoming initiatives intended to achieve increased compliance with provincial regulations.
- Reviewed and provided comments on the Lulu Island Dike Master Plan – Phase 2.
- Received regular updates from Parks staff on construction works and programming information for the Garden City Lands project.
- Received information on the BC Energy Step Code and provided comments on its proposed implementation in Richmond.
- Provided input to the development of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy for the City.

Summary of the Proposed ACE 2018 Work Program

The detailed 2018 Work Program is contained in Attachment 2. Highlights are as follows:

- Sustainability initiatives, plans and strategies – receive information and provide feedback on the Ecological Network Management Strategy, Riparian Management Areas, Invasive Species Action Plan and sustainable energy best practices.

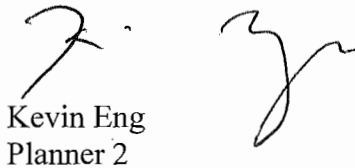
- Projects – Presentations to ACE about construction works for city projects (i.e., Garden City Lands) and applicable updates on the development of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy.
- Education and awareness – Organize a sustainability best practices activity/tour for ACE members to provide opportunities for further learning and awareness.
- Information sharing – Provide regular updates and information sharing amongst the Council and staff liaisons and Committee members.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Advisory Committee on the Environment serves an important role to Council to provide advice and guidance on achieving a sustainable environment. The 2017 Annual Report for ACE is submitted for information and the 2018 Work Program is recommended for Council Approval.



Kevin Eng
Planner 2

KE:cas

Attachment 1: Advisory Committee on the Environment 2017 Annual Report
Attachment 2: Draft Advisory Committee on the Environment 2018 Work Program

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Advisory Committee on the Environment 2017 Accomplishments		
Projects/Initiatives	Achieved Outcomes	Accomplishments and Comments
Riparian Area Strategy	Received updates from staff on the strategy and upcoming initiatives being brought forward for Council consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sustainability staff presentation of information on the Riparian Area Strategy, including appropriate background and provincial regulatory information. Provide information on the need for the Riparian Compliance Strategy – Achieve Compliance with Provincial regulations. Next steps include proposed changes to City regulations (i.e., Zoning Bylaw and OCP amendments).
Lulu Island Dike Master Plan – Phase 2	Received information from staff on Phase 2 of the plan and requested feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering staff presentation of information on the Lulu Island Dike Master Plan, including an overview of Phase 1 and proposed Phase 2 component of the plan. Questions and comments by ACE in regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dike design in response to anticipated sea level rise, seismic events, storm surges and spring freshets. Need to balance dike related works (including necessary tree removal and replacement) with the natural surrounding riparian and foreshore areas that form part of the ecological network of the City.
Garden City Lands Project	ACE received construction and programming updates on the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks staff presentation on construction updates from 2017 works (up to June 2017) on the Garden City Lands Project and proposed future programming. Commitment to provide regular construction and programming updates in future to ACE on this project.
Energy Step Code Implementation	Received information from staff on the implementation of Energy Step Code and provided feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sustainability staff presentation on the BC Energy Step Code, enacted by the province in April 2017, which provide performance based measures to achieve more energy efficient buildings (new building construction). Staff consulted with ACE on the implementation of the BC Energy Step Code in Richmond.
Ecological Importance of Trees in the City	Improved education and awareness about the importance of trees in the City and provide comments to the City on existing regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACE sub-committee formed on this topic to continue work to identify the importance of trees in the City. ACE reviewed information taken from other municipalities in the region specific to bylaws/regulations on trees. Reviewed potential revisions to existing City regulations (i.e., Tree Protection Bylaw) to enhance tree retention and survival of new replacement trees.
Agricultural Advisory Committee – ACE Liaison	Information shared between the AAC and ACE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council appointed ACE liaison to the AAC provided regular briefing reports on activities, projects and initiatives being considered at the AAC to members of ACE.

Advisory Committee on the Environment 2017 Accomplishments		
Projects/Initiatives	Achieved Outcomes	Accomplishments and Comments
Urban Forestry Management Strategy	Received presentation by Parks on the development of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy and provided feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks staff presentation on the development of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy for Richmond, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall process to develop a strategy in Richmond. ○ Data collection to be undertaken, including a tree canopy survey. ○ Requested ACE's feedback through an online survey. • ACE identified the importance of City-wide data collection for the purposes of a tree canopy study and emphasized the important role trees play in the City's ecological network and overall objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City. • Comments prepared and approved by ACE and forwarded to Parks staff as part of the consultation being undertaken at this stage.
Information Sharing	Received updates and information from the Council and staff liaisons and other members of the Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing on the activities and initiatives of the YVR Environmental Advisory Committee.

**DRAFT 2018 WORK PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Advisory Committee on the Environment Draft 2018 Work Program	
Projects/Initiatives	Objectives and Deliverables
Parks Department – Projects and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden City Lands project construction and programming updates to be provided by Parks staff. • Provide comments and feedback on upcoming works and programming when requested.
Ecological Network Management Strategy – Current and Upcoming Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive information about the 2018 Ecological Network Management Strategy Update. • Presentation from Environmental Sustainability staff on upcoming new initiatives and/or projects in relation to the management of natural areas in accordance with the Ecological Network Management Strategy. ACE to comment and provide feedback when applicable.
Riparian Management Areas – Updates and Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and/or presentation from Environmental Sustainability staff on Riparian Management Areas in the City, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Riparian Compliance Strategy approach in accordance with provincial regulations. ○ Information on potential regulatory implications to the City's Zoning Bylaw, Official Community Plan and development processes.
Invasive Species Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Sustainability staff to provide/present information on the City's Invasive Species Action Plan. • Discussion with Environmental Sustainability staff to determine how the issue of pesticides (including current regulations restricting use) is being addressed in the plan and opportunities to improve public education/awareness.
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information to be provided to ACE on the status of the City of Richmond's Greenhouse Gas reduction targets, including current trends and initiatives that are having an impact (or have the potential to have an impact). • Additional information about anticipated federal/provincial regulations and what the impacts may be on emission reduction targets.
Sustainable Energy Policy and Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive information about sustainable energy best practices in both new development and opportunities in existing project retrofits. • Coordinate with Environmental Sustainability staff to provide feedback on proposed energy related initiatives and regulations.
Trees in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work by ACE to recognize the ecological, economic and social benefit of preserving and retaining trees in the City. • Continue to receive status updates from Parks staff on the development of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy and provide feedback when appropriate.
Sustainability Best Practices Activity/Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing an activity and/or tour intended for ACE members with a focus on sustainable best practices in action and provides an opportunity for learning and awareness. • The staff liaison will be a resource to help organize the activity in consultation with ACE.